

SECRET

25X

16 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/NI

SUBJECT : Defense Intelligence Officers

1. NIO/WE's experience with DIOs has not been satisfactory -- in great part for personal reasons. The DIO with whom we deal has neither the grasp of substance nor the experience in intelligence that the other DIOs seem to have. She is excessively bureaucratic, and of such pronounced ideological views that her occasional efforts at analysis read like editorials. In addition, the analytical talent upon which she can call in DIA is thin -- partly reflecting the low priority accorded Western Europe there over the years.

2. Before DIOs were created, most of our dealings with DIA were through those working on Western Europe in DE. We had soon learned what we could expect in terms of support from DE and, thus bereft of illusory expectations, our contacts were workable for scaled-down purposes. The DIO's insertion into the midst of this working relationship kicked up lots of dust in DIA, and helped our dealings with DIA not at all. Rather, the new arrangements served to complicate and delay things -- one more person to touch base with, one more voice at the table in addition to DIA colleagues and representatives from Army, Navy, and Air Force.

3. In short, our dealings with DIA before the DIOs were created, while hardly very stimulating, were less cumbersome than they are now. This is the case with respect to our attempts (through FOCUS exercises and ad hoc requests) to guide and improve collection by DIA in the field, as well as to obtain substantive contributions and "coordinated Defense inputs to national intelligence."

4. In our experience, the DIO's contribution in assisting us in "identifying and evaluating the needs of intelligence users for Defense intelligence products" has been negligible. We cannot speak to the question of the support the DIOs provide to the Director, DIA.

5. To repeat, there is no intrinsic reason why these deficiencies should exist. The problem is more personal than institutional.

NIO/WE**SECRET**

2

2